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EXAMINER

BACKER, FIRMIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3621

DATE MAILED: 07/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/783,560

Applicant(s)

KANG, DONG-SEOK

Examiner

Firmin Backer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 February 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is in response to a letter for patent filed on February 15th, 2001 in which claims 1-22 are presented for examination. Claims 1-22 are pending in the letter.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: Applicant disclose “the same” in paragraph 4 line 2. This terminology is unacceptable in the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mourad et al (U.S. PG Pub no. 2003/135464).

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4. As per claim 1, Mourad et al teach digital contents superdistribution method through digital contents download services, the superdistribution method comprising accessing by a user a server providing digital contents download services via a communication network to make payment for digital contents on the server, and receiving a download of the digital contents on which a security code is set, distributing the downloaded digital contents after making payment to another user; if the distributed digital contents are executed on the another user's computer, accessing the server automatically via the same or another communication network; and after the server is accessed and payment for the distributed digital contents is made by the another user, offering a predetermined compensation via the server to the user who received the downloaded digital contents (*see abstract, figs 1A, 1C, 1D, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 25, paragraph 0008, 0011, 00165, 0183, 0203, 0255-0260, 0278-0286, 00590, 00594, 1219, 1233*).

5. As per claim 2, Mourad et al teach a method wherein if the distributed digital contents are executed on the another user's computer, further accessing the server due to a failure of a security check on a security code set on the distributed digital contents.

6. As per claim 3, Mourad et al teach a method wherein, if the server is accessed and payment for the distributed digital contents is made by the another user, further resetting the security code set on the distributed digital contents for the another user who makes the payment.

7. As per claim 4, Mourad et al teach a method further comprising further distributing the distributed digital contents on which the security code is reset to a different user; and if payment

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for the further distributed digital contents is made by the different user, offering via the server a predetermined compensation to the another user who further distributed the distributed digital contents, and if payment for the further distributed digital contents is made by the different user, the security code which has been set on the distributed digital contents is reset for the different user who makes the payment.

8. As per claim 5, Mourad et al teach a method further comprising further distributing the downloaded digital contents to additional users by the another user who received the distributed digital contents; and repeating the further distributing by the additional users to still other additional users hierarchically.

9. As per claim 6, Mourad et al teach a digital contents superdistribution method through digital contents download services, the superdistribution method comprising downloading to a first client the digital contents on which a security code is set from a server, which provides digital contents download services and to which the first client both accessed via a communication network and made payment for the digital contents, receiving at the server an access request from a second client via a second communication network if the downloaded digital contents are distributed from the first client to the second client and are executed on the second client; and offering via the server the first client a predetermined compensation if the second client makes payment for the distributed digital contents (*see abstract, figs 1A,, 1C, 1D, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 25, paragraph 0008, 0011, 00165, 0183, 0203, 0255-0260, 0278-0286, 00590, 00594, 1219, 1233*)..

10. As per claim 7, Mourad et al teach a method wherein the access request is automatically made owing to a failure of a security check on a security code set on the distributed digital contents which are executed on the second client (*see abstract, figs 1A,, 1C, 1D, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 25, paragraph 0008, 0011, 00165, 0183, 0203, 0255-0260, 0278-0286, 00590, 00594, 1219, 1233*).

11. As per claim 8, Mourad et al teach a method wherein, if the second client makes payment for the distributed digital contents, resetting via the server the security code on the distributed digital contents for the second client (*see abstract, figs 1A,, 1C, 1D, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 25, paragraph 0008, 0011, 00165, 0183, 0203, 0255-0260, 0278-0286, 00590, 00594, 1219, 1233*).

12. As per claim 9, Mourad et al teach a method further comprising offering via the server a predetermined compensation to the second client who has further distributed the digital contents on which the security code is reset to an additional client if the digital contents on which the security code is reset is distributed to additional clients and payment for the digital contents on which a security code is reset is made; and if payment for the digital contents on which the security code is reset is made, resetting the security code on the digital contents for the additional client who makes the payment (*see abstract, figs 1A,, 1C, 1D, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 25, paragraph 0008, 0011, 00165, 0183, 0203, 0255-0260, 0278-0286, 00590, 00594, 1219, 1233*).

13. As per claim 10, Mourad et al teach a digital contents superdistribution system comprising a server computer to provide digital contents download services, a first user computer connected to the server computer via a communication network, the first user computer makes payment for digital contents, and receives download services of the digital contents on which a security code is set from the server computer; and a second user computer that receives a copy of the digital contents of the first user computer, is connected to the server computer via a second communication network, and is automatically connected to the server computer if the copy of the digital contents distributed by the first user computer are executed by the second user computer, wherein, if the copy of the digital contents distributed by the first user computer are executed on the second user computer, the second user computer accesses the server computer due to a failure of a security check on the security code set on the copy of the digital contents, and if the second user computer accesses the server to make payment for the copy of the digital contents, a predetermined compensation is offered to a first user of the first user computer who has distributed the copy of the digital contents received by the second user computer (*see abstract, figs 1A,, 1C, 1D, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 25, paragraph 0008, 0011, 00165, 0183, 0203, 0255-0260, 0278-0286, 00590, 00594, 1219, 1233*)..

14. As per claim 11, Mourad et al teach a system wherein, if the second user computer makes payment for the copy of the digital contents, the server computer resets the security code on the copy of the digital contents of the second user computer (*see abstract, figs 1A,, 1C, 1D, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 25, paragraph 0008, 0011, 00165, 0183, 0203, 0255-0260, 0278-0286, 00590, 00594, 1219, 1233*).

15. As per claim 12, Mourad et al teach a method of distributing digital contents using a server, comprising: receiving at the server an indication from a receiving client through a communication network that the receiving client received a copy of digital contents that includes an identification of a distributing client, and that the receiving client is compliant with a license for the digital contents; and offering compensation using the server to the distributing client after the receiving at the server the indication from the receiving client (*see abstract, figs 1A,, 1C, 1D, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 25, paragraph 0008, 0011, 00165, 0183, 0203, 0255-0260, 0278-0286, 00590, 00594, 1219, 1233*)..

16. As per claim 13, Mourad et al teach a further comprising setting by the server the identification of the distributing client on the digital contents prior to the receiving the indication from the receiving client, the setting the identification comprising setting a distributing client security code for the digital contents; and resetting the distributing client security code for the copy of the digital contents to a receiving client security code using the server through the communication network if the receiving client is compliant with the license (*see abstract, figs 1A,, 1C, 1D, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 25, paragraph 0008, 0011, 00165, 0183, 0203, 0255-0260, 0278-0286, 00590, 00594, 1219, 1233*)..

17. As per claim 14, Mourad et al teach a method of distributing digital contents, comprising verifying at a server that the first client is compliant with a license for the digital contents through a first communication network prior to allowing the first client to access the digital

contents; receiving by a second client a copy of the verified digital contents of the first client; verifying at the server that the second client is compliant with the license for the digital contents through the first or a second communications network prior to allowing the second client to access the copy of the verified digital contents of the first client; and offering compensation to the first client if the second client is verified to be compliant with the license (*see abstract, figs1A,, 1C, 1D, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 25, paragraph 0008, 0011, 00165, 0183, 0203, 0255-0260, 0278-0286, 00590, 00594, 1219, 1233*)..

18. As per claim 15, Mourad et al teach a method wherein the verifying at the server that the first client is compliant comprises setting a first security code for the digital contents that allows the first client to access the digital contents, and the verifying at the server that the second client is compliant comprises resetting the first security code for the copy of the verified digital contents of the first client to a second security code that allows the second client to access the digital contents (*see abstract, figs1A,, 1C, 1D, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 25, paragraph 0008, 0011, 00165, 0183, 0203, 0255-0260, 0278-0286, 00590, 00594, 1219, 1233*)..

19. As per claim 16, Mourad et al teach a method wherein the verifying at the server that the second client is compliant further comprises receiving a payment from the second client prior to resetting the first security code to the second security code (*see abstract, figs1A,, 1C, 1D, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 25, paragraph 0008, 0011, 00165, 0183, 0203, 0255-0260, 0278-0286, 00590, 00594, 1219, 1233*)..

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20. As per claim 17, Mourad et al teach a method wherein the receiving by the second client comprises receiving the copy of the verified digital contents of the first client from the first client (*see abstract, figs 1A,, 1C, 1D, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 25, paragraph 0008, 0011, 00165, 0183, 0203, 0255-0260, 0278-0286, 00590, 00594, 1219, 1233*)..

21. As per claim 18, Mourad et al teach a method wherein the receiving by the second client comprises receiving the copy of the verified digital contents of the first client from a third client, where the third client was not compliant with the license (*see abstract, figs 1A,, 1C, 1D, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 25, paragraph 0008, 0011, 00165, 0183, 0203, 0255-0260, 0278-0286, 00590, 00594, 1219, 1233*)..

22. As per claim 19, Mourad et al teach a distributing system to manage the distribution of digital contents having a license, comprising a first client having the digital contents and the license, where the first client is verified to be compliant with the license, a second client having a copy of the verified digital contents of the first client; and a server that verifies through a communication network whether the second client is compliant with the license for the digital contents, where the second client cannot access the copy of the verified digital contents of the first client unless the server verifies the second client is compliant with the license, and offers compensation to the first client if the second client is verified to be compliant with the license (*see abstract, figs 1A,, 1C, 1D, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 25, paragraph 0008, 0011, 00165, 0183, 0203, 0255-0260, 0278-0286, 00590, 00594, 1219, 1233*)..

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23. As per claim 20, Mourad et al teach a system wherein the server further sets a first security code for the digital contents that allows the first client to access the digital contents in order to verify that the first client is compliant with the license, and resets the first security code for the copy of the verified digital contents of the first client to a second security code that allows the second client to access the digital contents in order to verify that the second client is compliant with the license (*see abstract, figs 1A,, 1C, 1D, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 25, paragraph 0008, 0011, 00165, 0183, 0203, 0255-0260, 0278-0286, 00590, 00594, 1219, 1233*)..

24. As per claim 21, Mourad et al teach a method further comprising repeating the further distributing and offering the predetermined compensation hierarchically (*see abstract, figs 1A,, 1C, 1D, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 25, paragraph 0008, 0011, 00165, 0183, 0203, 0255-0260, 0278-0286, 00590, 00594, 1219, 1233*)..

25. As per claim 22, Mourad et al teach a system further comprising repeating hierarchically the further distributing by and offering the predetermined compensation to the additional client to additionally distribute the digital contents to still other additional clients (*see abstract, figs 1A,, 1C, 1D, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 25, paragraph 0008, 0011, 00165, 0183, 0203, 0255-0260, 0278-0286, 00590, 00594, 1219, 1233*).

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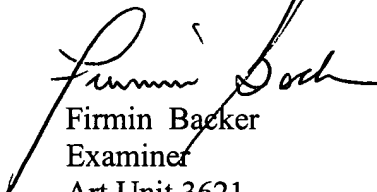
Conclusion

26. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. (*see form 892*).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Firmin Backer whose telephone number is (703) 305-0624. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.


Firmin Backer
Examiner
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July 24, 2003